

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NOTES: Advanced Placement (AP), SAT and PSAT data for local schools are available from those schools.

Today, at 3 p.m. EDT, AdvanceKentucky, an initiative of the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, in partnership with National Math and Science Initiative and KDE, will announce AP results related to 12 schools in a project to expand access to and success in AP mathematics, science and English courses.

MORE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AP EXAMINATIONS MORE EXAMS SCORED AT HIGHEST LEVELS

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) -- The number of Kentucky public high school students taking Advanced Placement (AP) examinations and scoring at high levels continues to rise, data released today from the College Board indicate.

Since 2004, the number of Kentucky public high school students taking AP examinations and scoring 3, 4 or 5 has increased by about 87 percent.

	Number of AP Test-Takers	Number of Tests	Number of Scores 3-5
2004	9,775	15,319	7,060
2005	10,478	16,465	7,636
2006	11,589	18,608	8,962
2007	13,246	20,787	9,913
2008	14,687	23,308	10,941
2009	16,991	27,170	13,195

The performance of ethnic groups in Kentucky's public schools showed increases from 2004 to 2008. Since 2000, the number of non-white public school students taking one or more AP exams has more than quadrupled.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING ONE OR MORE AP EXAMS - BY ETHNICITY

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
African American	135	154	202	338	356	414	434	551	687	814
American Indian	13	15	14	23	33	28	37	36	45	41
Asian	202	234	282	298	384	445	479	555	602	693
Hispanic	54	65	69	82	115	148	211	228	283	388
White	5,621	5,838	6,644	7,529	8,553	9,026	9,887	11,395	12,533	14,402
Other	100	117	135	155	194	223	251	263	303	409
No Response	50	84	84	123	140	194	290	218	234	244
TOTAL	6,175	6,507	7,430	8,548	9,775	10,478	11,589	13,246	14,687	16,991

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Since 2000, the number of AP test scores of 3, 4 or 5 has risen for students in all ethnic groups.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SCORING 3-5 ON AP EXAMS - BY ETHNICITY

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
African American	41	42	68	95	106	112	131	166	204	255
American Indian	5	8	4	11	16	17	15	12	19	21
Asian	147	159	197	207	262	303	340	356	406	471
Hispanic	42	40	45	43	71	91	120	129	150	190
White	2,802	2,878	3,345	3,690	4,218	4,384	4,994	5,661	6,103	7,313
Other	53	65	84	101	105	124	130	151	150	182
No Response	24	47	46	51	74	87	161	111	112	130
TOTAL	3,072	3,239	3,789	4,198	4,852	5,118	5,891	6,586	7,144	8,562

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Based on their performance on rigorous AP exams, students can earn credit, advanced placement or both for college.

Schools and districts determine prerequisite requirements for student eligibility. Common criteria include grades, teacher recommendations and PSAT and other test scores. Many schools utilize an application process. The College Board encourages, but does not require, a non-exclusive admittance policy.

In 1987, the Kentucky Board of Education established the Commonwealth Diploma Program to encourage Kentucky's high school students to take demanding and rigorous courses that would prepare them for college. Criteria for the diploma include successful completion of at least four AP courses (English, science or mathematics, foreign language and one additional AP course) and completion of at least three AP exams.

Senate Bill 74, passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2002, required the development of a core AP curriculum and the expansion of access to AP courses through the Kentucky Virtual High School. Currently, 34 AP courses are offered in Kentucky, including art history, biology, chemistry, English literature, United States history, physics and statistics.

In November 2005, the National Governors Association awarded grants of \$500,000 each to Kentucky and five other states to improve the access to and success in AP courses. Kentucky has used its award to increase student and teacher preparation for AP and to develop AP expansion. Students eligible for free and reduced-price school meals qualify for waivers of the fees to take the AP exams.

In 2007, the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) formed a partnership with the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC) to expand access to, preparation for and participation in academically rigorous coursework such as AP classes. Through the Advanced Placement Teacher Training and Incentive Program

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(APTIP), NMSI has committed \$13.2 million in matching funds to AdvanceKentucky over a six-year period through monies from Exxon Mobil Corporation and the Dell and Gates Foundations. Federal funding also is provided by the Kentucky Department of Education through the U.S. Department of Education AP Incentive Program and by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Twelve schools are involved in the first phase of the project, with 15 additional schools joining in 2008. For more details on the APTIP, please visit AdvanceKentucky's Web site at <http://www.advancekentucky.com/Default>.

The College Board also released data on SAT and PSAT/NMSQT scores. Kentucky public high school students who took the SAT I in 2009 made considerable scale-score gains over those taking the test in 2008 on all three subtests. At the same time, however, the number of students taking the test has decreased by about 20 percent from 2008 to 2009. Therefore, these gains are difficult to interpret.

	SAT I Verbal	SAT I Math	SAT I Writing
2004	555	558	n/a
2005	559	561	n/a
2006	559	564	549
2007	562	566	547
2008	566	573	550
2009	575	581	560

A very small percentage of Kentucky public school students take the SAT I -- only 4 percent of graduating public school seniors participated in the test in 2009. Due to the varying degrees of participation among states, and changes in the number of students taking the test each year, the College Board cautions against making between-state or between-year comparisons based on mean scores.

The mean scores of Kentucky public high school sophomores and juniors who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) showed slight increases in mathematics at both the sophomore and junior levels and in reading at the junior level. The PSAT/NMSQT is scored on a scale of 0 to 80.

YEAR	GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF PSAT/NMSQT TEST-TAKERS	MEAN CRITICAL READING	MEAN MATHEMATICS	MEAN WRITING
2004	Sophomore	9,159	41.1	41.8	44.6
2005	Sophomore	9,614	41.9	42.9	45.4
2006	Sophomore	9,931	42.4	43.4	44.3
2007	Sophomore	4,593	47.7	48.2	45.7
2008	Sophomore	4,085	47.4	48.0	46.6
2009	Sophomore	4,070	47.3	48.7	46.2
2004	Junior	9,704	47.1	47.5	49.9
2005	Junior	9,661	48.2	49.2	50.8
2006	Junior	9,421	49.1	50.1	50.3
2007	Junior	9,594	49.6	49.4	47.2
2008	Junior	8,931	49.6	49.9	48.2
2009	Junior	8,381	49.7	50.8	48.1

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Some Kentucky public school districts offer the PSAT/NMSQT to students at the 9th-grade level, which may impact the number of students who participate as sophomores. Score information for 9th-grade students is not yet available from the College Board.

The SAT is a three-hour test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful academically. Many colleges and universities use the SAT as one indicator of a student's readiness to do college-level work. SAT scores are compared with the scores of other applicants and the accepted scores at an institution and can be used as a basis for awarding merit-based financial aid. Kentucky colleges and universities typically use the ACT as an admission requirement, which is reflected in the small percentage of students who take the SAT.

The SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800 (for math and verbal) and is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. The test is administered several times a year.

The PSAT/NMSQT is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, mathematics problem-solving skills and writing skills.

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